

Asterix and the
SOOTHSAYER

by GOSCINNY and UDERZO



THE ONLY THING THAT THE GALLS ARE AFRAID OF IS THE SKY FALLING ON THEIR HEADS AN EVENT WHICH SEEMS IMMINENT AS A TERRIBLE STORM BATTERS THE LITTLE VILLAGE WE KNOW SO WELL...

BRRRAOM!



ALL THE TOP PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER IN THE HOUSE OF CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX...

IF ONLY GETAFIX WASN'T AWAY AT THE DRUIDS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN THE FOREST OF THE CARNUTES HE'D LOOK AFTER US...



THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF! WE'VE HAD STORMS BEFORE. THIS IS QUITE A BAD ONE, I AGREE, BUT...



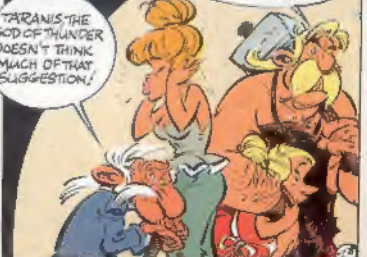
SUPPOSE I SING SOMETHING TO BOOST OUR MORALE?



BRRRAOM!

TARANIS THE GOD OF THUNDER DOESN'T THINK MUCH OF THAT SUGGESTION!

THAT'S ONE GOD WITH HIS HEAD SCREWED ON RIGHT!



HUH! OUR DRUID MAY BE AWAY, BUT YOU TATIS, THE GOD OF THE TRIBE, IS PROTECTING US.

ANYWAY, BUT TARANIS, MIGHT WAKE UP SUCCELLUS, THE GOD OF THE DEAD!

BELENOS, THE GOD OF HEALING, KEEPS SUCCELLUS UNDER CONTROL.

AND DON'T FORGET THAT ESUS, THE GOD OF LIFE, WORKS HAND IN GLOVE WITH SUCCELLUS!

WHAT IF EPONA, THE GODDESS OF WAR, HAS MADE TROUBLE AMONG THEM?



AS YOU CAN SEE, THE GAULS ARE CERTAINLY NOT SHORT OF GODS; MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED RUB SHOULDERS IN THOUSANDS. THERE ARE GODS FOR EVERYTHING: TREES, ROADS, RIVERS; IN FACT, THERE ARE SO MANY THAT WORSHIPPERS SOMETIMES ADDRESS THEM BY CODE NUMBERS TO FACILITATE DELIVERY OF THEIR PRAYERS. FOR, IN FACT, INTELLIGENTLY, A GODDESS WHOSE SERVICES WERE OFTEN HELD IN SECRET, MAY BE FOUND UNDER M15.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

HOW ABOUT HAVING SOMETHING TO EAT?

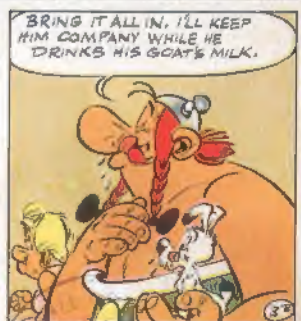
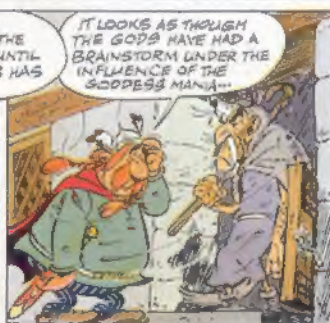


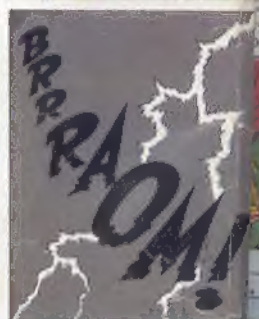
OBELEX IS RIGHT. STOP WITTERING ON AND LET'S FIND SOMETHING TO DO WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE STORM TO PASS OVER.



I COULD SING YOU SOMETHING JOLLY...







ASTERIX'S SCEPTICISM HAS NO EFFECT SUBJECTED TO THE INFLUENCE OF SO MANY GODS, WHO BOTH PROTECT AND THREATEN THEM, THE NATIONS OF ANTIQUITY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF THEIR WHIMS. HERE WE MUST INSERT A PARENTHESIS...

A PARENTHESIS WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF SOOTHSAVERS' GRACES, PROPHECIES, AUGURIES, HARUSPICES AND OTHER INTERPRETERS OF THE SIBYLLINE BOOKS.

O SOOTHSAYER, WILL THE GODS LOOK KINDLY ON THE HARVEST?



SOOTHSAYERS READ THE FUTURE IN THE WAY BIRDS FLY...

YES, FARMER, THE GODS WILL SEND RAIN FOR YOUR FIELDS!



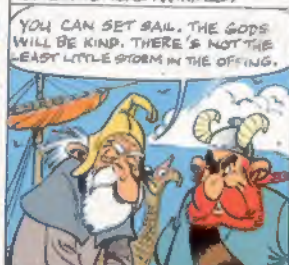
... IN THE APPETITE OF THE SACRED GEESE...

THE GOOSE LIVER PATE WILL BE GOOD THIS YEAR! THE GODS HAVE SPOKEN!



... AND ABOVE ALL IN THE ENTRAILS OF SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS.

YOU CAN SET SAIL, THE GODS WILL BE KIND, THERE'S NOT THE LEAST LITTLE STORM IN THE OFFING.



THE PREDICTIONS OF THE ENTRAILS ARE NOT ALWAYS CORRECT...

I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A LOAD OF TRIPE!

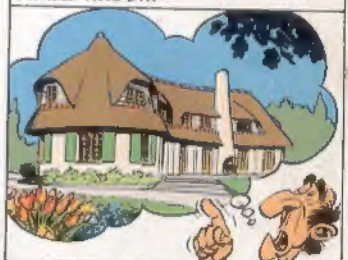


EVEN THE GREATEST CONSULT THE AUGURIES...

... AND AS LONG AS BRUTUS IS NEAR YOU, O CAESAR, YOU WILL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.



IF CERTAIN VISIONARIES HAVE A REASONABLE IDEA OF WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS...

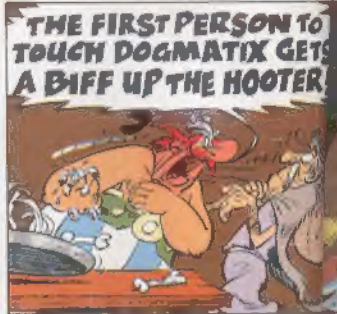


... GENERALLY THEY SAY ANY OLD THING!



IN SHORT, THEY ARE CHARLATANS WHO THRIVE ON GREGULITY, FEAR AND HUMAN SUPERSTITION. HERE WE CLOSE THE PARENTHESIS.

LIBRARY OF RESIDENCE
BOOKS



OH! WHAT A RELIEF...

I ALSO SEE THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A FIGHT.

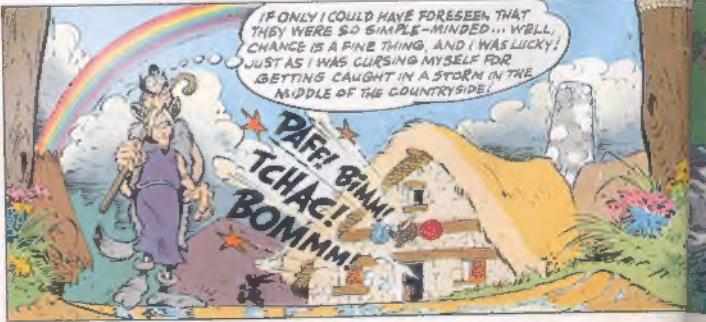
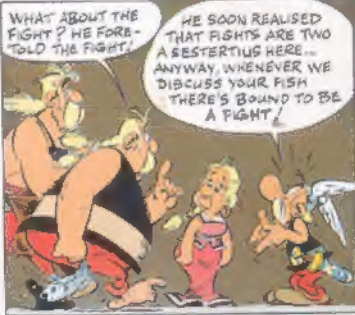
IF GETAFOX WAS HERE HE'D TELL YOU NOT TO BELIEVE THIS IMPOSTOR, YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!

BUT ASTERIX, THE FISH HAS SPOKEN...

SO YOU THINK MY FISH ISN'T VERY FRESH DO YOU?

WELL, NOT TO PUT TOO FINE A POINT ON IT... NOW IT'S BEEN READ YOU SHOULD CLOSE IT UP AND PUT IT BACK ON THE SLAB...

73



**GET OUT!
EVERYBODY OUT!**



**I SAID:
EVERYBODY OUT!**



BUT,
DEAREST,
THIS IS MY
HOME...

OUT!



WHEN! SHE'S
HANDY WITH
HER BROOM!

ARE WE
OUT OF THE
DOOR?

YES
CHIEF!



TOIVING!

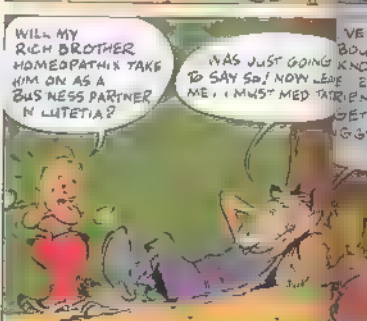
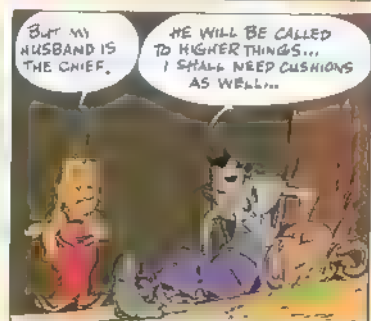
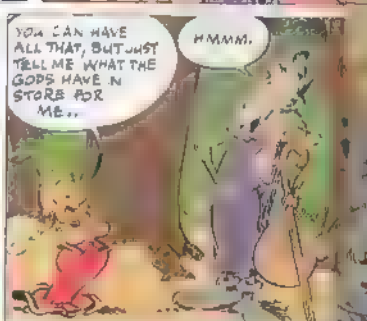
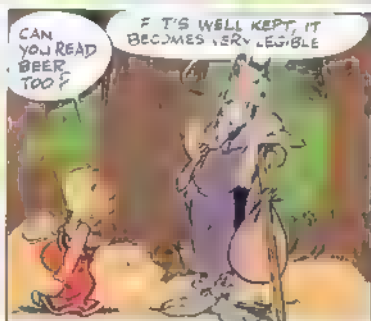
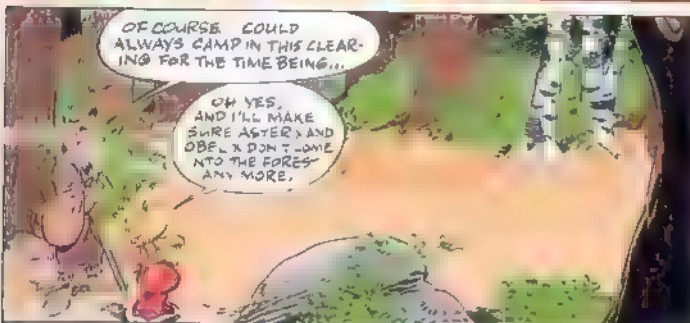


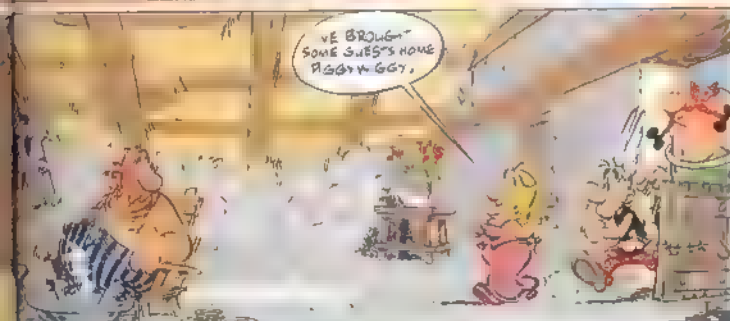
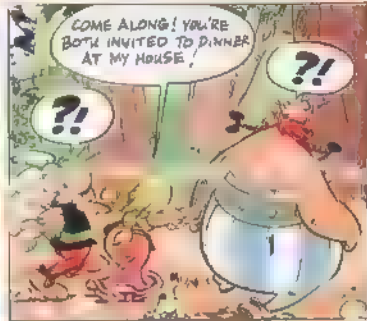
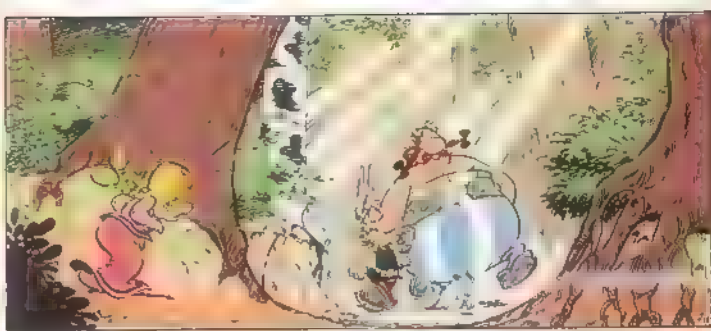
SOOTHSAYER!
SOOTHSAYER!
JUST WAIT A
MINUTE!

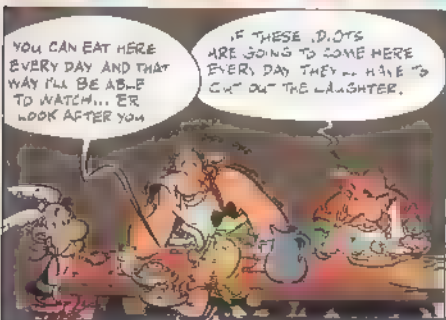
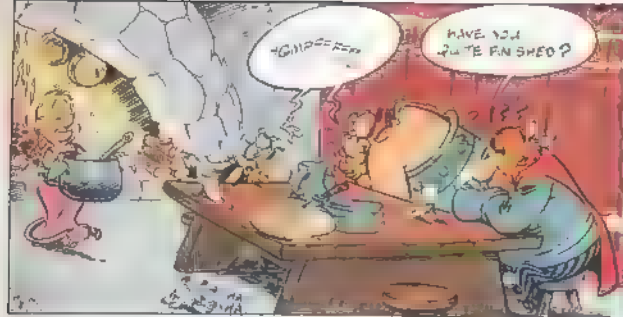


I MUST PLAY THIS CAREFULLY,
IN THE LAST VILLAGE, THEY
LITERALLY KICKED ME OUT...
I MUST ADMIT THAT LOT
WEREN'T STUPID!









THE NEXT DAY .

APPARENTLY YOU
READ MY FISH AND TOLD
MY WIFE IT WOULD HAVE
A WIDE CIRCULATION
SHALL I HAVE A CHAIN
OF FISHMONGERS
SHOPS?

THAT'S RIGHT,
FOR MORE DETAILS
I SHALL HAVE TO
READ GOLD

WOULD
SESTERTI DO?

YES BUT DON'T
FORGET THE
OFFICIAL RATE OF
EXCHANGE ONE
HUNDRED SESTERTI
TO THE AUREUS

GOLD LOAN

FALLO TAKING
YOUR CHICKENS
FOR A WALK?

YES...

WELL YOUR
WIFE TAKES HER
FISHES FOR A WALK

IDIOT!

ER... I'M JUST
GOING FOR ADRINK
IN THE FOREST...

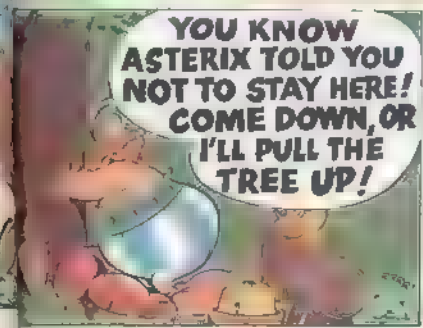
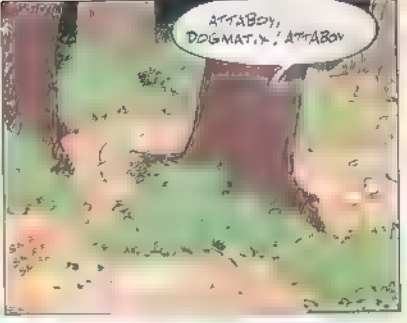
THERE ARE
SOME FUNNY
GOINGS-ON
HERE...

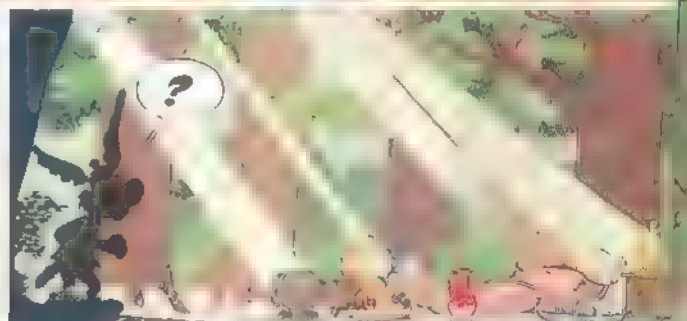
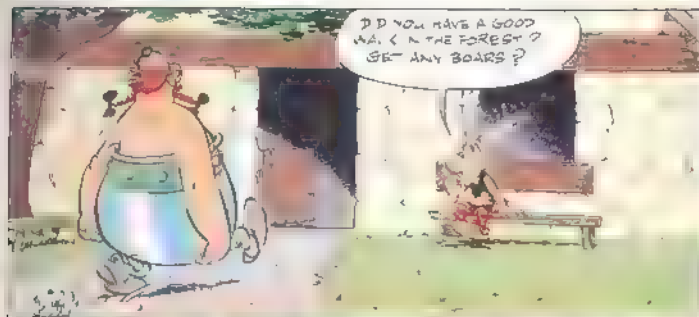
WHAT'S GOING ON
IS THEY'RE ALL MAKING
FOR THE FOREST, AND
THEY'RE HAPPY, AND
THEY'RE BORED TO TEARS WITH
NOTHING TO DO!

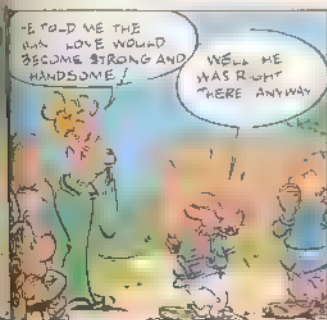
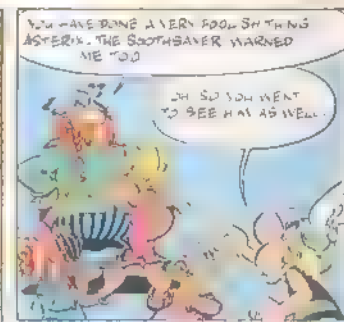
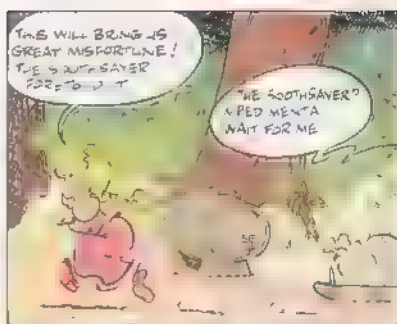
IT'S THE CLOSE SEASON FOR
MENNIES AND DOGMATOXIS PINING
FOR SOME TREES!

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

SOME PEOPLE TAKE THEIR FISHES
OR THEIR CHICKENS FOR A WALK, I
TAKE MY DOG! SO SUCKS TO
PIGGYBAGGY.



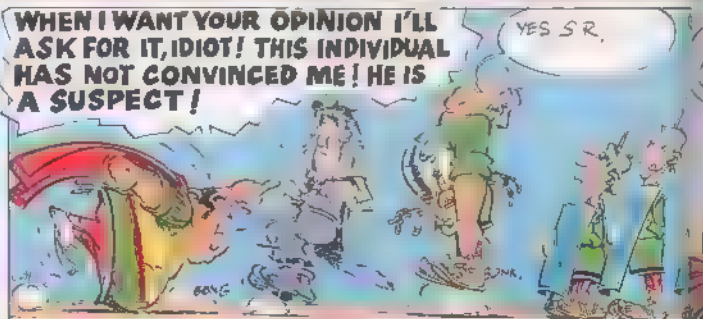
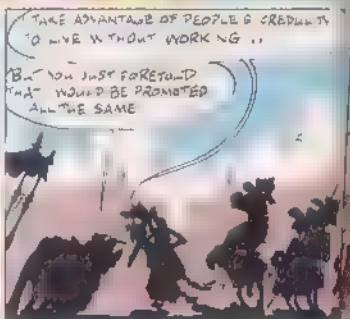
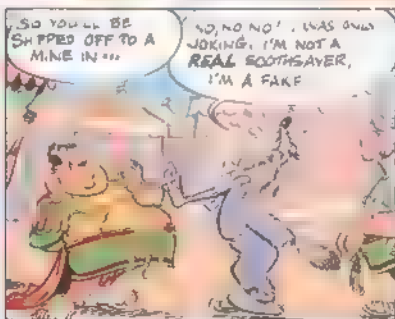
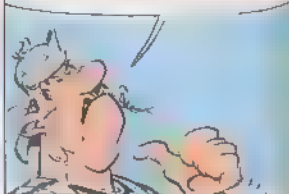


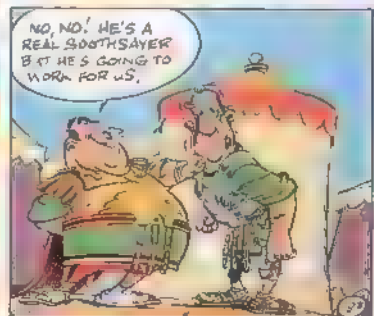
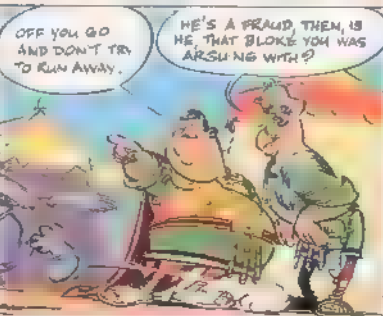
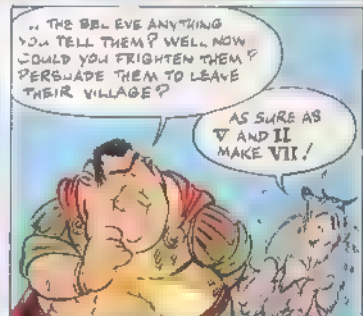
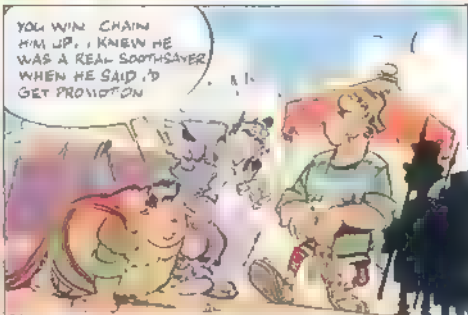
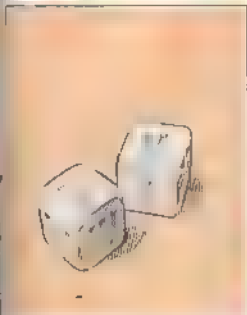


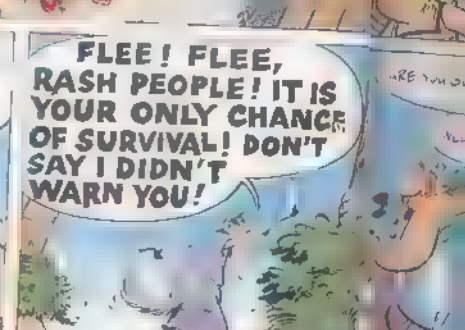
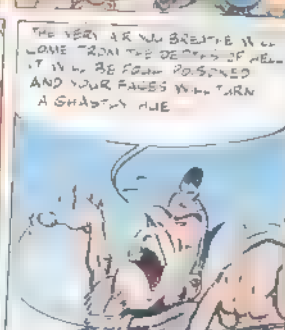
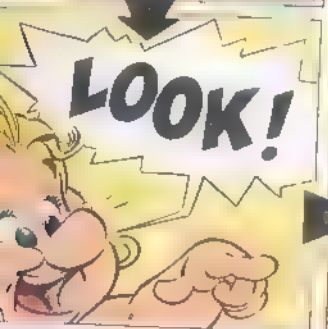
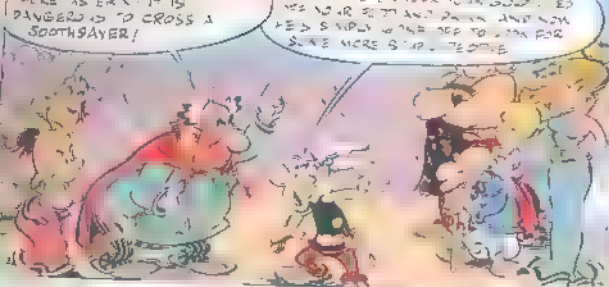
THE EXPLANATION S'D BE
FOUND AT THE VERY MOMENT
THE COURT FIED ROMAN
CAMP DECOMPENSATION

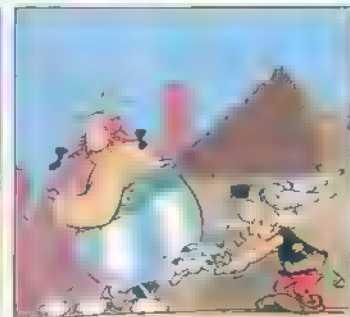
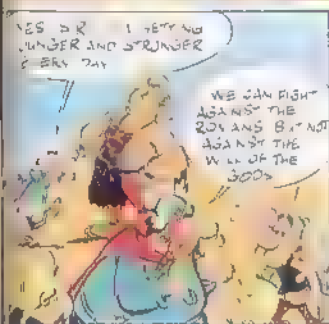
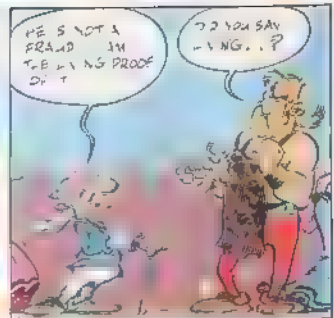
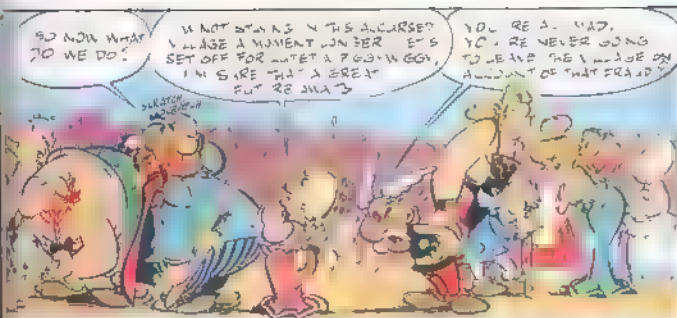


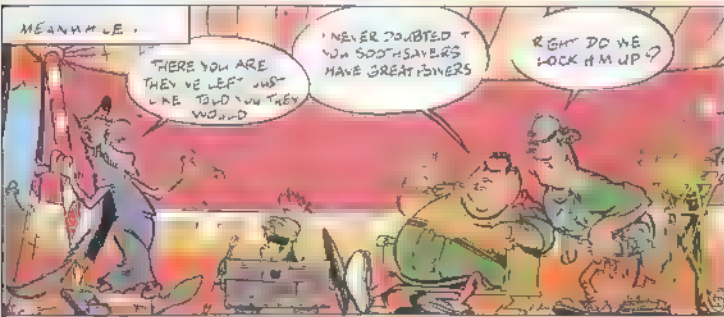
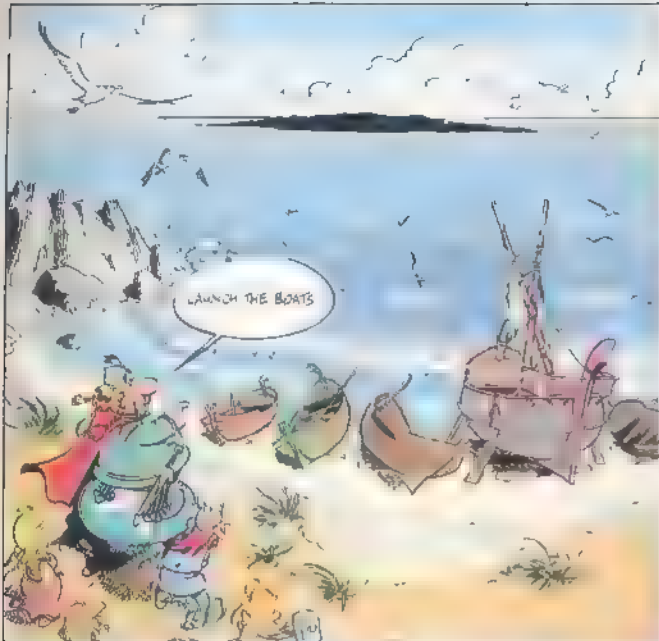
ON PROCEEDING ON PATROL FOR
WHICH YOU GAVE THE ORDERS TO
PROCEED WITH WE FOUND THIS BEE
INDIVIDUAL IN A CLEAR NG, AND AFTER
A CAUTION HE MADE A STATEMENT
WHAT WE WERE NOT VERY
SATISFIED WITH.









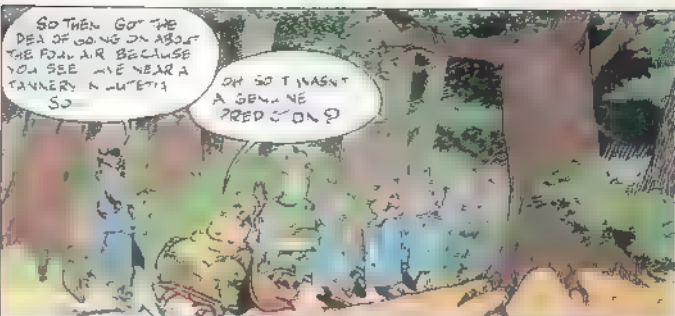


LET'S GO OFF TO THE VILLAGE AND
CHECK UP ON THESE STATEMENTS
OF YOURS



SO THEN GOT THE
DEA OF GOING ON ABOUT
THE POOR AIR BECAUSE
YOU SEE WE NEAR A
TANNERY NUTTERS
SO

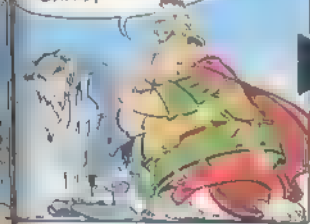
OH SO IT WASN'T
A GENUINE
PREDICTION?



I CAN'T MAKE ANY
GENUINE PREDICTIONS!
IF I COULD HAVE FORESEEN
HOW THIS WAS GOING TO
TURN OUT I'D HAVE STAYED
AT HOME NEXT DOOR TO
THAT TANNERY!



OH WE'RE NEAR
THE VILLAGE AND SEEMS
BET BUT YOU NEVER
KNOW WITH THOSE
SAVANS.



WE NEED A SCOUT
TO GO ON AHEAD
WANT A YOUNG LAD?

SR



AND YOU CAN TAKE
THE SCOUTSAYER
WITH YOU

KNOW IT



NO

**NO, YOU
DON'T! NO
YOU DON'T!**

DO WE LOCK
HIM UP THEN?



LOOK AHEAD! TWO OF THEM HAVE
GONE & WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET ANY
ROMANS TAKE OVER OUR VILLAGE
ARE WE?

THEY'RE ONLY
PASSING THROUGH
THAT'S A PROMISE
IS IT?

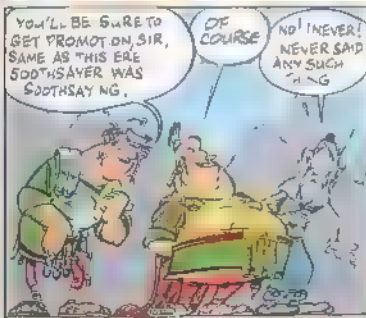


ER CENTURION...
DO YOU THINK THIS IS
REALLY WISE? IT COULD
BE AN AMBUSH... YOU
KNOW WHAT THESE

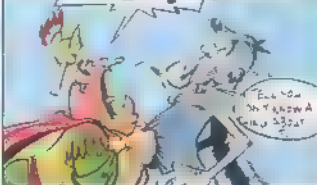
NO NO, MY GOOD FELLOW
SOOTH-SAYERS ARE NEVER
WRONG YOU KNOW.
RIGHT FORWARD MARCH,
I'M AHEAD



YOU ARE TO START FOR ROME BEARING
A MESSAGE FOR CAESAR. YOU WILL
TELL HIM. AND GAUL IS OCCUPIED
HE WILL ASK "ALL?" YOU WILL REPLY.
"ALL!" HE WILL UNDERSTAND.



OH? AND WHY NOT?
HAVE THE GODS SHOWN
YOU SOMETHING
NASTY IN MY FUTURE
THEN?



ANSWER ME, OR I'LL
HAVE YOU OPENED UP
SO YOU CAN READ YOUR
OWN ENTRAILS!



WE CAN'T LEAVE THEM IN OUR VILLAGE ASTERIX. LET'S GET IN THERE, ALL THREE OF US, AND THROW THEM OUT!

NO, WE ARE GOING TO TEACH THEM A LESSON. THE ROMANS THE SOOTH-SAYER AND EVEN OUR OWN PEOPLE.

DON'T YOU WORRY OBELEX. THERE WILL BE ANOTHER BANQUET IN OUR VILLAGE. YET YOU MARK MY WORDS.

HULLO, BOYS! HUNTING BOARS?

?

OUR DRUID, GETAFIX!

LOOK AT THAT BOYS! I WON THE GOLDEN CAULDRON FOR THE DRUID OF THE YEAR AT OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN THE FOREST OF THE CARNTES.

AND A VERY INTERESTING CONFERENCE IT WAS. THE DRUID STATISTIX HAS BEEN FOUNG OUT SOME FUTURE TRENDS IN OUR PROGRESS ON.

IS SOMETHING WRONG BOYS?

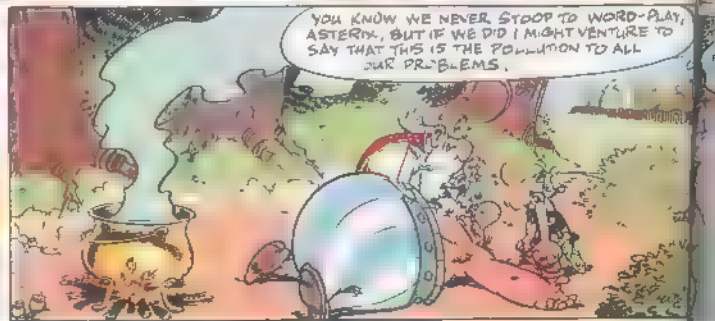
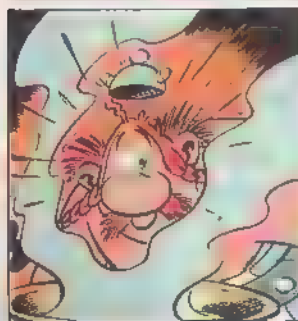
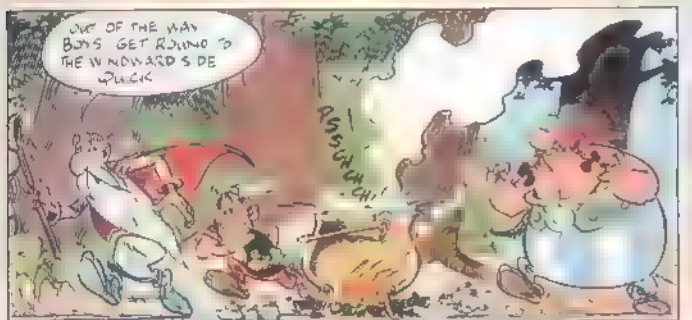
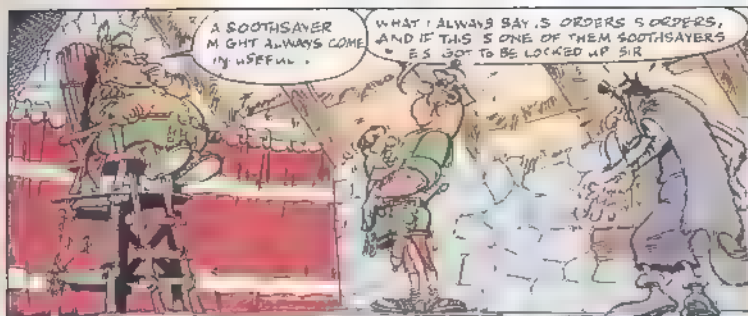
HE TELL YOU ALL ABOUT A DRUID.

SOON AFTERWARDS

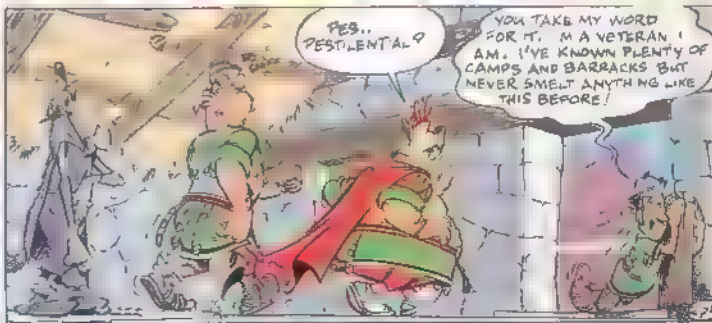
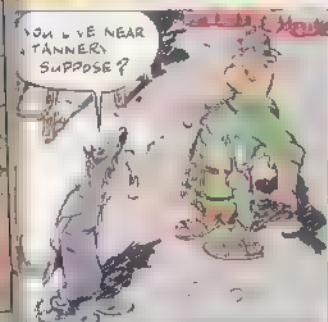
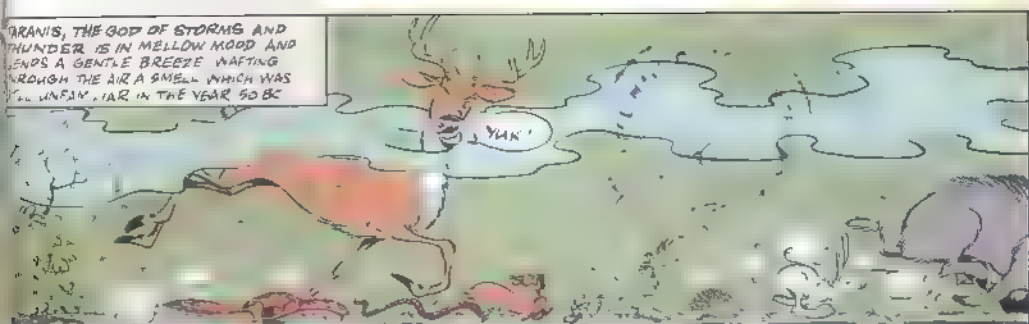
MMM... FOUL AIR, EHP A GHASTLY HUE EHP

BROUGHT A FEW RATHER WEIRD LITTLE INGREDIENTS SOME WITH ME. PASS ME DOWN THAT BEAUTIFUL CAULDRON.

SPLENDID, SPLENDID... THE WIND'S JUST ABOUT TO CHANGE. THERE IS NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE.



BRANIS, THE GOD OF STORMS AND THUNDER IS IN MELLOW MOOD AND SENDS A GENTLE BREEZE WAITING THROUGH THE AIR A SMELL WHICH WAS UNFAMILAR IN THE YEAR 50 BC



?!?



AMAZING!
IT'S LIKE MAGIC!
EVEN THE GODS
OBEY YOU

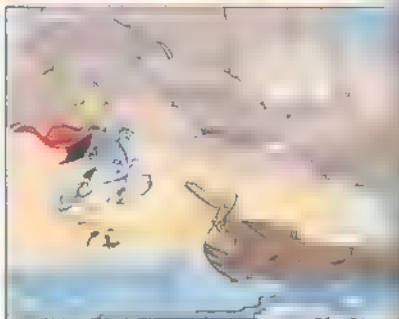
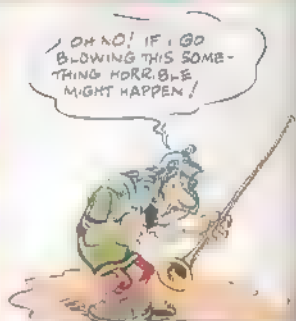
BUT IT'S NOT
POSSIBLE!! IT
JUST CAN'T
POSSIBLE!



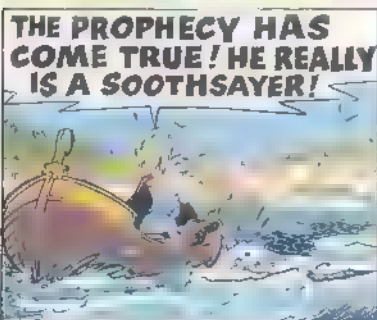
TRUMPETER SOUND
THE ASSEMBLY! WE'RE
GOING TO EVACUATE THE
CITY!! THE GODS HAVE CURSED



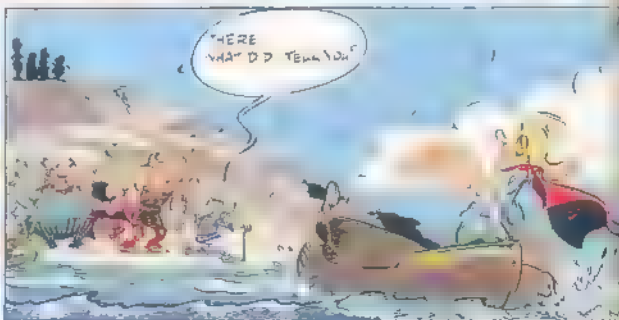
OH NO! IF I GO
BLOWING THIS SOME-
THING HORRIBLE
MIGHT HAPPEN!

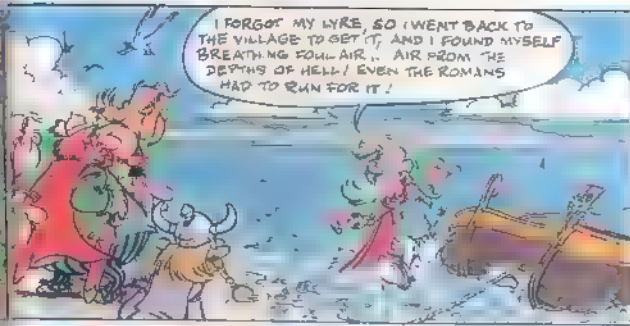


**THE PROPHECY HAS
COME TRUE! HE REALLY
IS A SOOTHSAYER!**

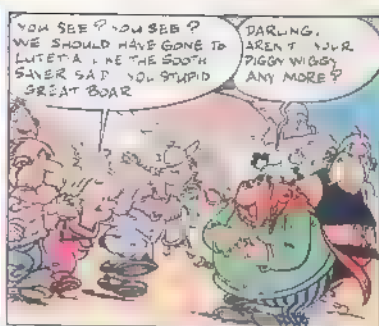


HERE
WHAT DID YOU SAY?





I FORGOT MY LYRE, SO I WENT BACK TO THE VILLAGE TO GET IT, AND I FOUND MYSELF BREATHING FOUL AIR... AIR FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL! EVEN THE ROMANS HAD TO RUN FOR IT!

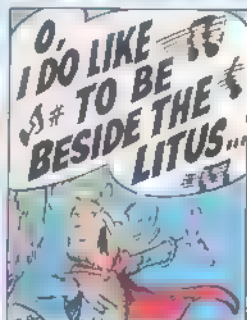


YOU SEE? YOU SEE? WE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO LUTETIA... LIKE THE GOOD SAYER SAID YOU STUPID GREAT BOAR

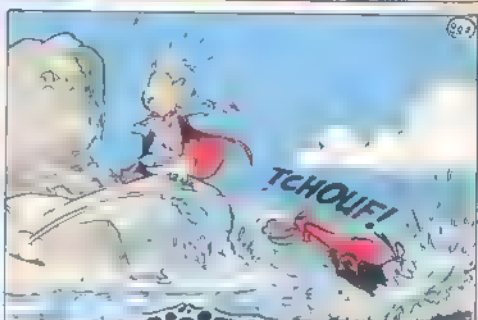
DARLING, AREN'T YOUR PIGGY WIGGYS ANY MORE?



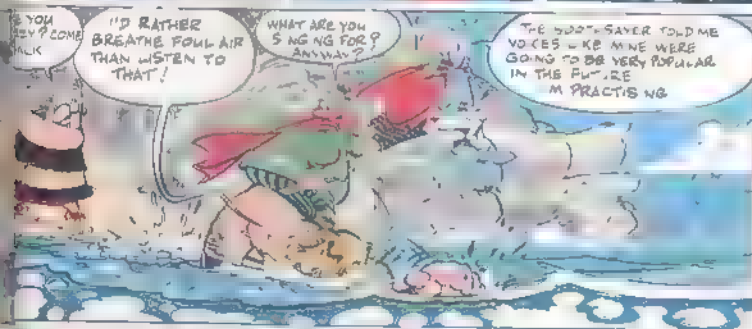
WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO WITHOUT MY LYRE



O, I DO LIKE TO BE ~~TO~~ BESIDE THE LUTUS...



TCHOUE!

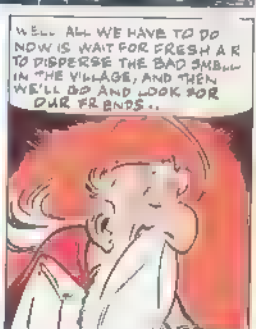


DO YOU REPLY? COME TALK

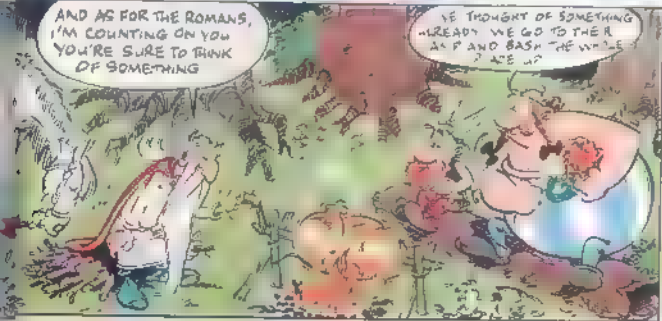
I'D RATHER BREATHE FOUL AIR THAN LISTEN TO THAT!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING FOR? ANYWAY?

THE GOOD SAYER TOLD ME VOICES LIKE MINE WERE GOING TO BE VERY POPULAR IN THE FUTURE... I'M PRACTISING

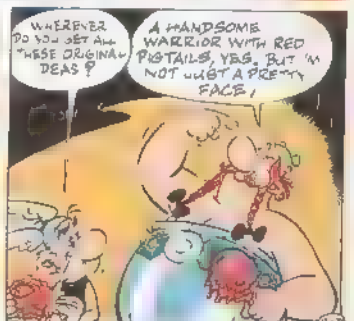


WELL, ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS WAIT FOR FRESH AIR TO DISPERSE THE BAD SMELL IN THE VILLAGE, AND THEN WE'LL DO AND LOOK FOR OUR FRIENDS...



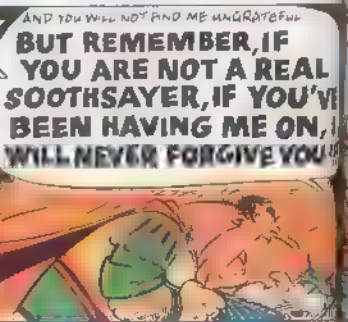
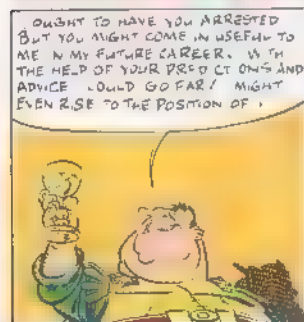
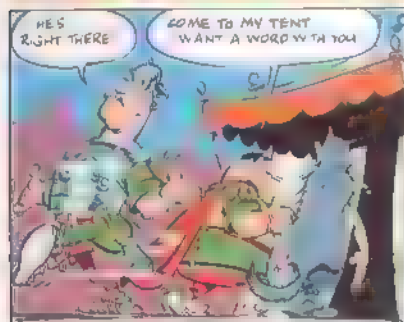
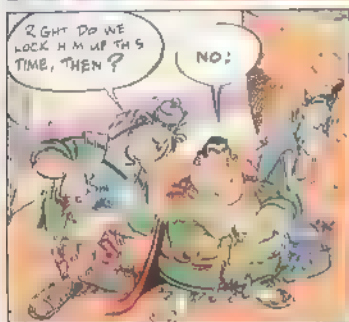
AND AS FOR THE ROMANS, I'M COUNTING ON YOU YOU'RE SURE TO THINK OF SOMETHING

WE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING ALREADY, WE GO TO THE RAMPART AND BASH THE WALLS WE'VE UP



WHEREVER DO YOU GET ALL THESE ORIGINAL IDEAS?

A HANDSOME WARRIOR WITH RED PISTOLS, YES, BUT I'M NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE!



JUST CAN'T MAKE HEAD
OR TAIL OF IT. HAVE TURNED
N'D A REAL SOOTHSAIER



AND ANYWAY DO WSH
THEY'D ALL BE UP GRABBING
ME BY THE FRONT OF MY



SAY A NUMBER FROM
I TO XII!



ER ALLR SAT
VIII



DOT
3

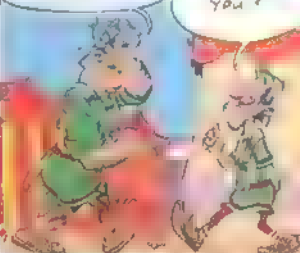


REFR.. WE DONT WANT ANYONE BUT ME
KNOW YOU'RE A REAL SOOTHSAIER
YOU WERE JUST A LITTLE DULLER
ERE EVEN THAT FOOL MIGHT SUSPECT
SOMETHING...



WHAT I ASK MYSELF
IS, NOW WHERE
AM I?

CAN I HELP
YOU?



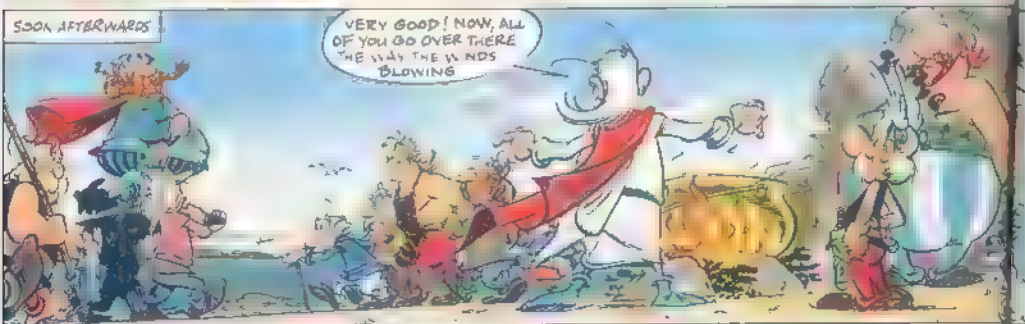
NO YOU DONT KNOW EVEN
LESS THAN WHAT DO BECAUSE
IM AN OPTICIAN AND YOU'RE JUST
A COMMON LEGONARY

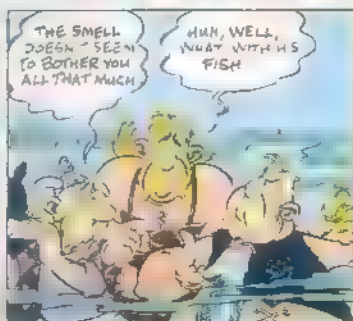
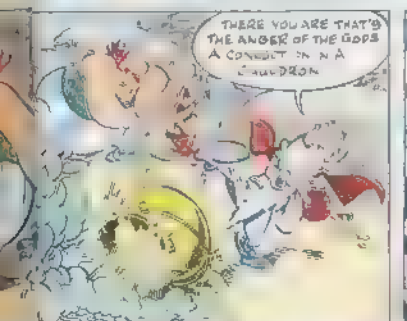
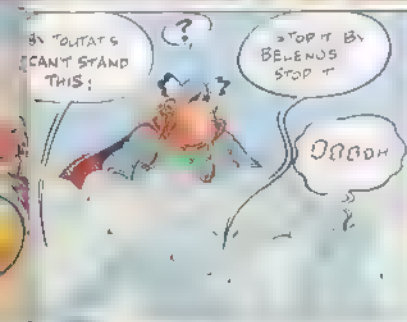
DOT!

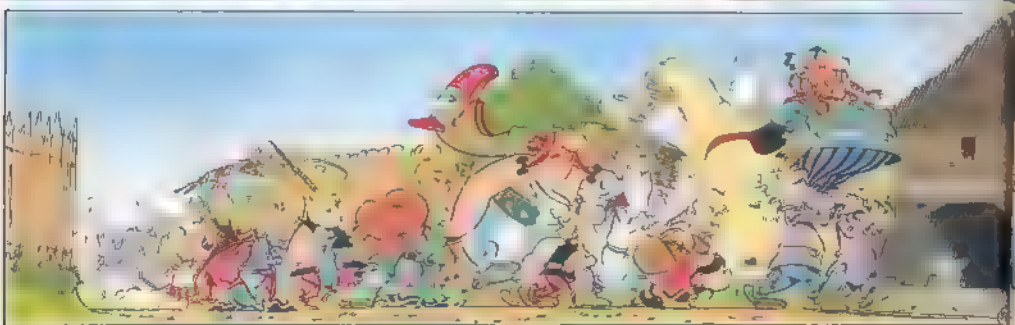
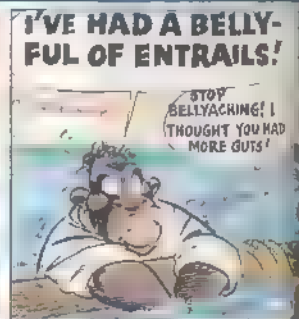
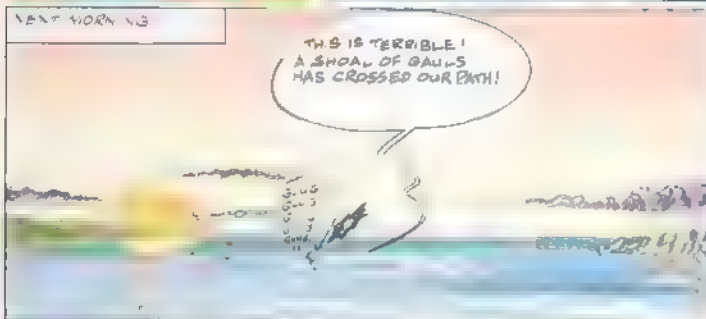
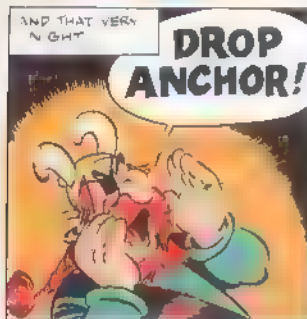


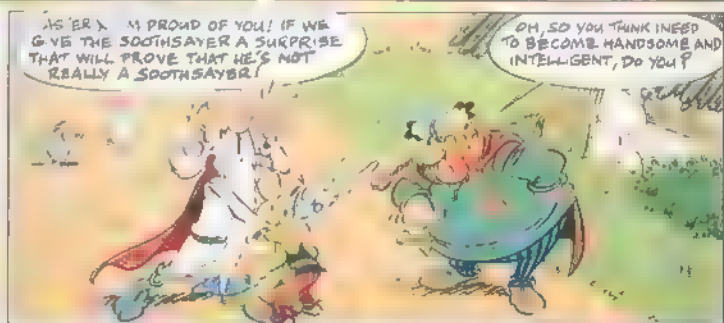
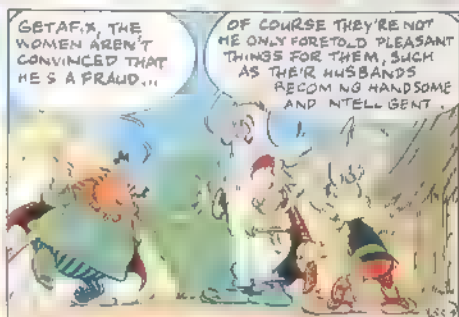
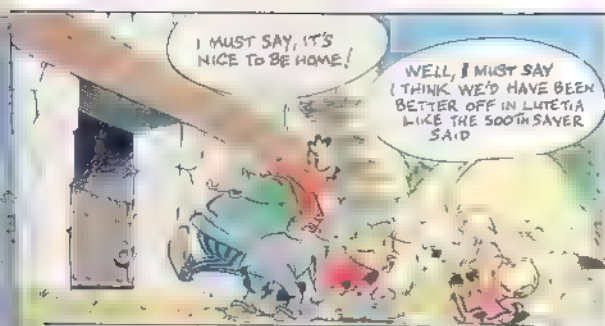
SAY WH...













INCLUDING US G R L S ?

SPEC ALLY YOU G R L S !

OH I LOVE SURPRISES!



VE NEVER
TASTED YOUR
FAMOUS MAGIC
POT ON

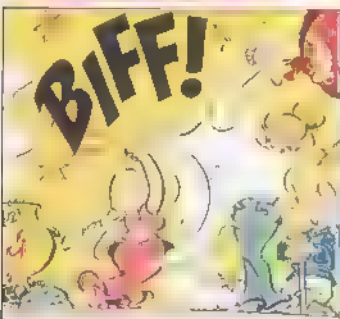


HM NOT BAD
ANYSE I HANG
ADDED ANOTHER
PINCH OF SALT

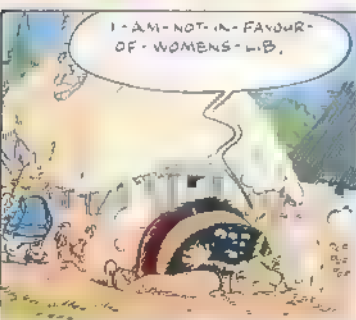


AND DOES T REALLY WORK?

HAVE A GO!



BIFF!

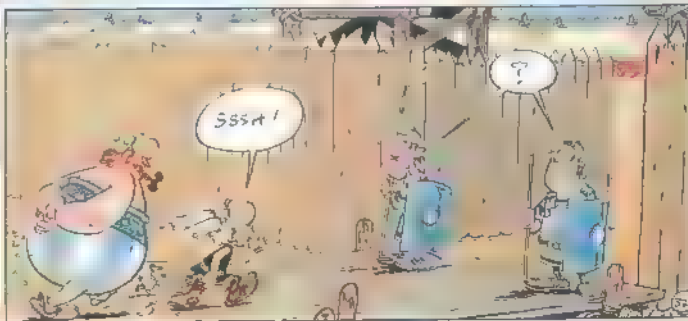
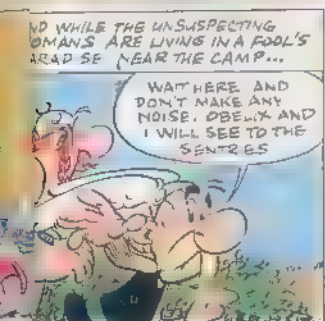
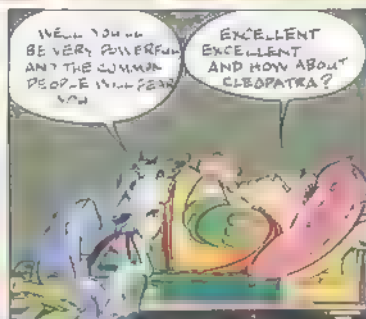
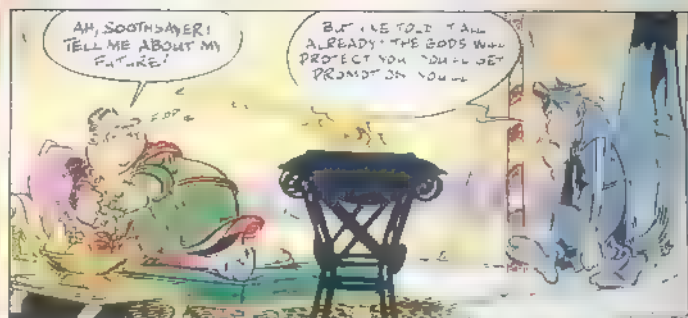


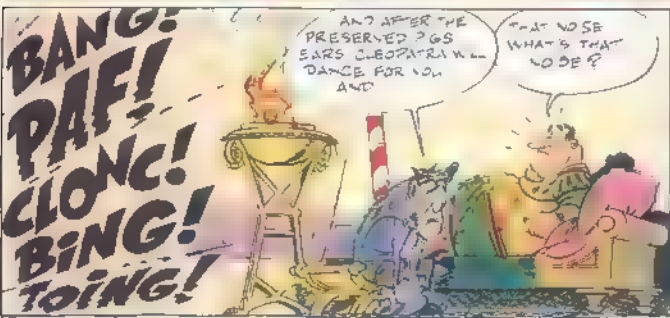
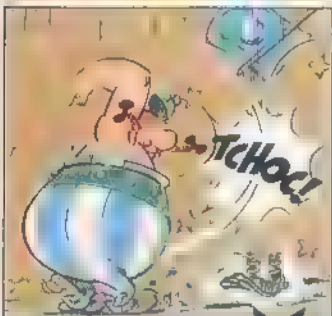
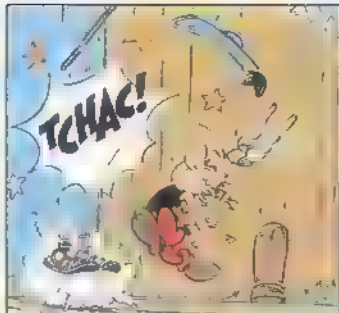
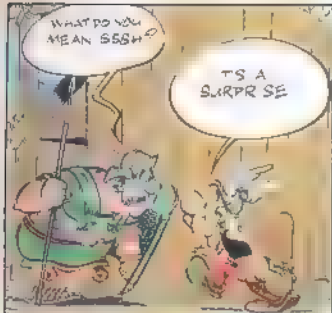
I - AM - NOT - IN - FAVOUR -
OF - WOMENS - L.B.



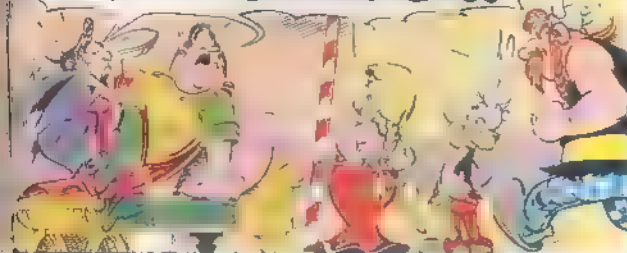
**COME ON, ALL! WE'RE OFF TO THE
FORTIFIED CAMP OF COMPENDIUM!**

AND LET'S HOPE
THE GODS ARE NOT
PROTECT NG PROXY
THE SOOTHSAYER!



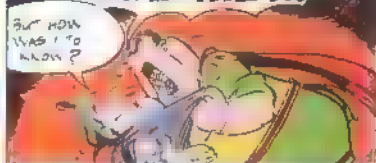


THE GAULS!!!



**GAULS INSIDE
THE CAMP, AND
YOU DIDN'T
WARN ME??!**

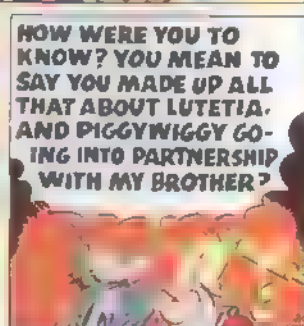
BUT HOW
WAS I TO
KNOW?



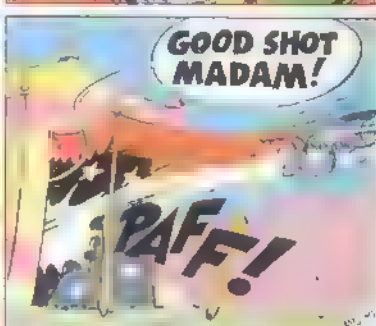
LEAVE HIM TO ME.



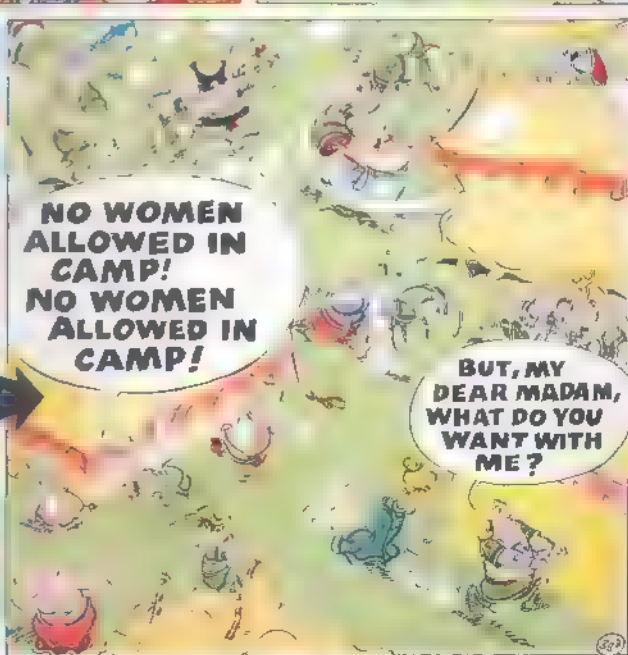
**HOW WERE YOU TO
KNOW? YOU MEAN TO
SAY YOU MADE UP ALL
THAT ABOUT LUTETIA.
AND PIGGYWIGGY GO-
ING INTO PARTNERSHIP
WITH MY BROTHER?**



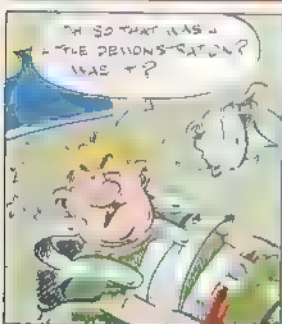
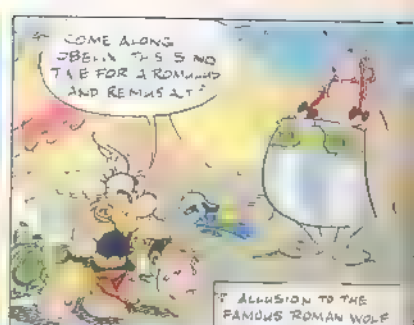
**GOOD SHOT
MADAM!**



**NO WOMEN
ALLOWED IN
CAMP!
NO WOMEN
ALLOWED IN
CAMP!**



**BUT, MY
DEAR MADAM,
WHAT DO YOU
WANT WITH
ME?**







**SILENCE! YOU'RE
DEMOTED TO
THE RANKS!**

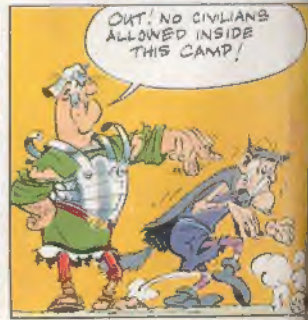


**OH, SO I'M GOING TO
GET PROMOTION, AM I?
OPTIONE,
ARREST THIS
IMPOSTOR!**



BUT OF COURSE HE'S
A SOOTHSAYER! NO
DOUBT ABOUT IT! A GREAT
GAULISH SOOTHSAYER,
PROTECTED BY THE
GODS, AND...

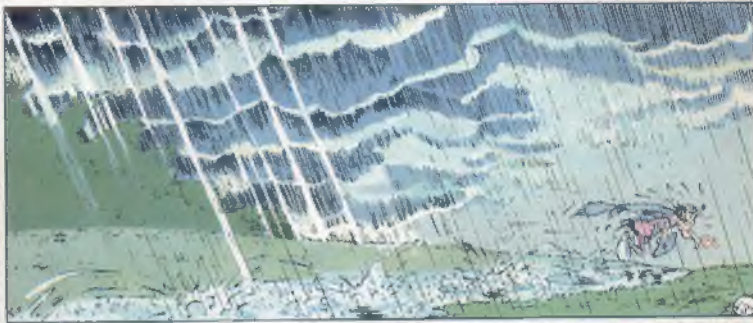
**I DON'T TAKE NO
ORDERS FROM A
COMMON LEGIONARY!
YOU GO AND SWEEP OUT
THE CAMP! ON YOUR OWN!
AND NO COMPLAINTS!**



THE GODS KNOW
WHAT TOMORROW MAY
BRING, BUT I'M THROUGH
WITH SOOTHSAYING!



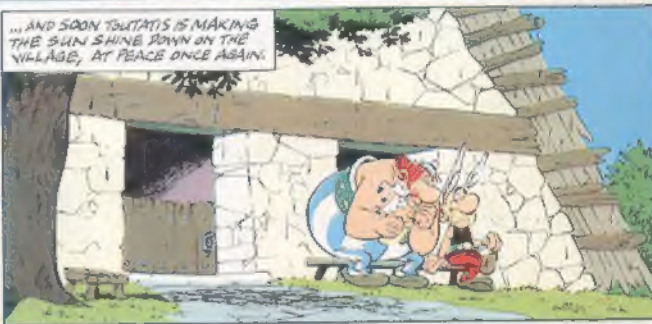
AND IF EVER I CHANGE
MY MIND, MAY TARANIS MAKE
THE SKY FALL ON MY HEAD!



HOWEVER, THE ANGER OF
TARANIS IS SHORT-LIVED...



...AND SOON TOUTATIS IS MAKING
THE SUN SHINE DOWN ON THE
VILLAGE, AT PEACE ONCE AGAIN.



WELL, OBELIX, OLD FRIEND, I
DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SOOTH-
SAYER SAID TO YOU, BUT I'M
SURE YOU'LL BE HAPPY!



YOU'RE NOT A
SOOTHSAYER,
ASTERIX.

OH, AREN'T I?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THERE'D
BE ANOTHER BANQUET
IN THIS VILLAGE... WELL,
SO THERE WILL BE THIS
VERY EVENING!



**HOW RIGHT YOU
ARE! YOU DID
FORETELL IT!**



